

### **Remarks/Arguments**

Claims 1-20 remain in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 9, 2, 13, and 14 have been amended. Claims 3 and 18-20 are canceled.

### **Drawings**

The drawings are amended to correct for some labeling errors. References to 206 and 306 were removed from the drawings and from the specification.

The specification has been amended to overcome the remaining drawing objections, in particular reference to R1 and C1 has been removed where those reference indicators are not present within the drawings.

The drawings 4a and 4b have been amended to replace the figure labels.

There is no new matter within the amended drawings.

### **Specification**

The Abstract has been amended in accordance with the examiner's suggestions. No new matter has been added.

The claim has been amended to render the specification and drawings clearer and more consistent one with the other.

### **Claim Objections**

The claims are objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph as being indefinite.

Applicant would like to thank the examiner for an excellent quality of the examination provided.

The claims are amended to overcome the 112 objections and in accordance with the examiner's suggestions.

Regarding claims 8 and 9, applicant traverses the objection stating that the claim language is clear absent the inclusion of the term “further.”

### **Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102**

Claims 1, 2, 8, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Min.

Claim 1 is herein amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 3 and 4. Further, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to recite that at least one of M and N is other than 1. This is distinct from Min and, as such, the claims as amended are not anticipated by Min.

Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aude et al.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 3 and 4. Claims 18-20 are cancelled. As such, Aude does not anticipate the claims as amended.

Claims 4-7, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of Aude et al.

Applicant traverses this objection as follows: Aude does not link the base of the two bipolar junction transistors (BJT's) shown at an expense of an additional PFET. Further, since the voltage input port of Aude is coupled to one of the bases of the BJTs (and only one of them) it is not obvious to couple the two bases together. In contrast, Applicant has simplified the circuit design, eliminating a need for an extra PFET by coupling the base of the two BJTs together. As such, the input signal is provided to the base of each BJT in direct contrast to Aude. This is not an obvious modification.

Of course, it is well established in U.S. Jurisprudence that simplifying of a design is patentable wherein the simplification is not taught elsewhere. Here, there is no prior art

reference teaching the simplification and no motivation to modify the design of Aude. That coupled with the above argument that providing the input signal to both bases is not an obvious modification, results in the claims being other than obvious.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-7 and 13 are inventive over Aude.

Applicant would like to thank the examiner for the indication that some of the claims are allowable. These claims will be redrafted in independent form should that become necessary.

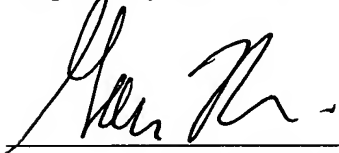
No new matter has been added in the amended claims.

Applicant looks forward to receiving favourable reconsideration of the present application.

A Petition for Extension of Time is filed concurrently with this response.

**Please charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayment to  
Deposit Account No: 50-1142.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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GF/AO/sah

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached drawing sheets replace the drawing sheets currently on file and include amendments as follows:

Fig. 2 has been amended to remove reference numeral 206.

Fig. 3 has been amended to remove reference numeral 306.

In Fig 4a has been amended to replace reference numeral 450 with reference numeral 400.

In Fig 4b has been amended to replace reference numeral 400 with reference numeral 450.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets containing Figures 1, 2, 3, 4a and 4b follows page 17 of this paper.